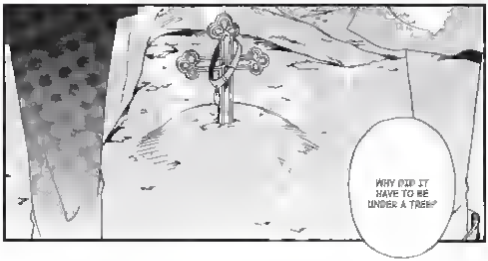
C. Hau
Rouxeville

Roureville

VOL.1 Ch.1

ROUREVILLE #01
HIM AND HIS CAT'S FUNERAL



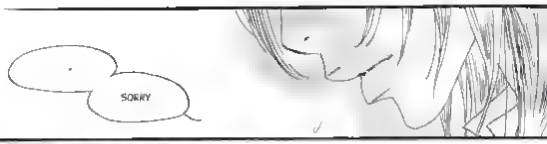
HE LIKED THE SHADE FROM THIS TREE

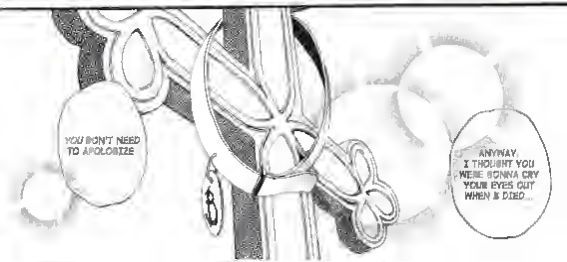
I SHOULD'VE WORN GLOVES, ALSO
HE LIKE? THAT SUIT TOO?
NO THIS IS OUT OF RESPECT...
WHY? DOES IT MAKE ME LOOK WEIRD?

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU IF ONLY YOUR HAIR WAS A BIT

RIGHT!

I CAN'T GET USED TO THIS AT ALL..
SIGH..
SHOOT, I KEEP FORGETTING
GRUMBLE


SORRY


YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE
ANYWAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA CRY YOUR EYES OUT WHEN A DIED...

I KNOW I CAN'T EVEN SHED A TEAR FOR SOME REASON
MAYBE THEY'VE ALL DRIED UP
WELL, FOR A CAT, HE LIVED A LONG TIME.
HU HU
YEAH HE LOOKED PEACEFUL..
AS IF HE JUST SLIPPED INTO A DEEP SLEEP
IT'LL BE NICE IF I CAN SLEEP LIKE THAT FOREVER"

JAYCE
IF ONLY I COULD GIVE YOU A HUG RIGHT NOW
IRENE...

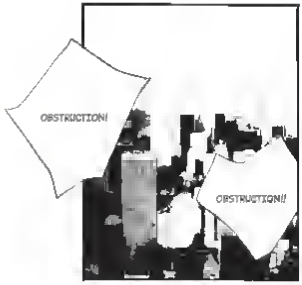
YOU BEING MY FRIEND IS MORE THAN ENOUGH THANKS
URG
...
EHK
YOU'RE REALLY SMALL-MINDED YOU KNOW THAT?

SWISH
SWISH
YEAH... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... I'M A LITTLE...
TRY TO FIX THAT!
OKAY!
BUT...
BE MORE CONFIDENT!
OKAY. BUT... UHHHH... YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE A SCARED OCTOPUS...

Roureville

ROUREVILLE #02
EVAN PRYCE

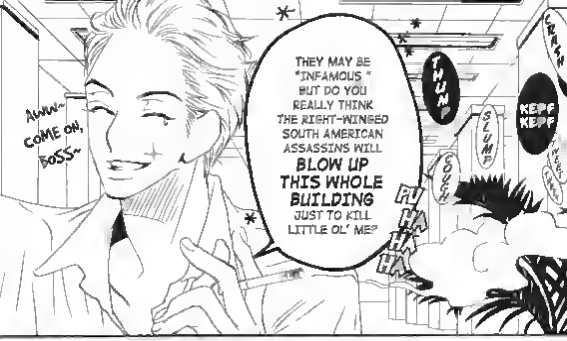
NEW YORK



HERE...
AS FOR BOTTLED WATER I WOULD LIKE AN EVIAN
AND DON'T FORGET TO GET ME SOME ROYAL MILK TEA LATER
HEY... GET ME SOMETHING TO DRINK
DON'T YOU HAVE SENSENS TEA INSTEAD OF COFFEE?
BOSS
YOU!! WHY AREN'T YOU OUTSIDE COVERING A STORY? GET THE HELL OUT!
BARK
EEP
SNIFF
AND WHY IS IT SO HOT IN HERE?!
VOOOO!
VOOOO!
PRYCE SAID HE HAS ASTHMA AND THE BREEZE FROM THE AC ISN'T GOOD FOR HIS HEALTH
THE HEAT JUST SEEMED BLAZING IN
AND YOU BELIEVED THAT?
IF YOU BROKE A DANGEROUS STORY YOU SHOULD BE IN HIDING!
SLURP
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS HERE IN THE OFFICE?
THIS ISN'T A HOTEL, PRYCE!

GROWL
NOBODY CAN DO ANY WORK AROUND HERE BECAUSE OF YOU!
WELL
I'M JUST REALLY BORED
(MUTE)
POOF
I WORKED SO HARD ON THAT STORY FOR SO LONG THAT I'VE BOT NOTHING TO DO ANYMORE DURING MY TIME OFF
(MUTE)
THIS PLACE IS SMOKE FREE!
COME ON~ IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH TO BET ANGRY AT EVERY LITTLE THING, BOSS

I HEARD THAT BECAUSE OF THIS GROUND-BREAKING ARTICLE TERRORISTS AND DRUG DEALERS
ARE JUST ITCHING TO BET THEIR HANDS ON YOU. SO, WHY ARE YOU PRETENDING TO HIDE HERE?
THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PLACE THEY LEAST EXPECT TO FIND ME
KE-KE-
YOU KNOW HOW STRESSING HOTELS AREP I DON'T LIKE PLANE RIDES EITHER
LOOK HERE! THIS ISN'T A JOKE
I HEAR THEY EVEN HAVE A BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD


Ahhh~ COME ON, BOSS~
THEY MAY BE "INFAMOUS" BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THE RIGHT-WINGED SOUTH AMERICAN ASSASSINS WILL BLOW UP THIS WHOLE BUILDING JUST TO KILL LITTLE OL' ME?
FU HA HA HA HA
THUMP
SLUMP
KEPP KEPP
SLUMP
SOUSH

SI-
SHRK
LENCE~
R~R

R
DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE WORK TO DO? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
CAUGH
HELLO
YES, THIS IS THE NEW YORK TIMES @D AREA!!

WHAT? GHOSTS?
AND YOU CALLED THE NEW YORK TIMES FOR THAT? WHY YOU...
WAIT
WHERE DID YOU SAY IT WAS? ♪
AS OF YESTERDAY DOTOH HAS TURNED INTO AN IMBECILE WHO'S BEEN TYPING THE SAME SENTENCES OVER AND OVER AGAIN
AND RICHARD WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL DUE TO STOMACH CRAMPS...
NOBODY CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES AROUND HERE HUH?
BUT MY LIFE IS IN DANGER...
I HEAR IT'S A SMALL TOWN NOT EVEN ON THE MAP THE TERRORISTS WILL NEVER FIND YOU THERE.
FRYCE YOU'LL NEED TO GO CHECK IT OUT
OTHER REPORTERS WORKING THE STREETS ON OTHER STORIES SAY THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL HERE
AND THE REST ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF NERVOUSNESS AND PARANOIA
SO THAT LEAVES YOU
YOU SAID HOTELS ARE STIFLING THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY!
HA HA HA

SURE THING, EVEN THE NEW YORK TIMES NEEDS A HORROR STORY OR TWO
@HOSTS! WHAT A PERFECT SUBJECT FOR THE MOMENT!
"YOU'RE SENDING ME, EVAN PRYCE, TO COVER A FLIMSY STORY LIKE THAT?"
"IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I STARTED EATING AND SLEEPING IN THE OFFICE..."
"I GUESS IT'LL BE BETTER THAN LIVING THIS PLACE AS A HOTEL FOR MONTHS TO COME..."
"THAT'S VERY GOOD, PRYCE."
THEN
THUMP THUMP
CACK
FANT FANT
NO HOPE...
HU
FIRT FIRT
I SUPPOSE I'LL GO
TAP
TAP
TAP
I CAN BE FOUND HERE EITHER.
THERE'S A REWARD OUT FOR HIS DEATH
I CAN'T TURN THE AC ON HIGH ENOUGH
DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE OKAY?
THAT THING WILL SELL HIS GRANDMOTHER IF HE NEEDS TO JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF, WHY WON'T YOU?

HAH
SERIOUSLY
HE IS GIFTED IN THESE SORT OF THINGS THOUGH...
THE OFFICE IS SMOKE-FREE
NOTHING'S BEEN IMPOSSIBLE ONCE I PUT MY MIND TO IT.

BUT, THEN AGAIN...
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
HOW CAN DRIVING DIRECTIONS BE SO VAGUE?

IT'S ALREADY BEEN TEN DAYS SINCE I SET OFF TO TRACK THIS STORY.
NOT TO MENTION I HAVE YET TO FIND MY DESTINATION: ROUMEVILLE.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS SINCE THIS HICK TOWN ..... EVEN ON THE MAP
WHAT KIND OF NAME IS ROUMEVILLE AND WHERE THE HELL IS IT?
MAYBE I DID UNDERESTIMATE THIS PROJECT...

IT WAS A HALF-ASSED PROJECT TO KILL SOME TIME, BUT THE PAST TEN DAYS WERE FAR FROM EASY
I MAY HAVE HEARD OF IT I'M NOT SURE WHY DON'T YOU WATCH OUR MARIO SHOW AND REST A BIT FIRST?

I'M ACTUALLY ON MY WAY TO PARIS PARIS TEXAS I MEAN UMM...
UMM
DON'T KNOW NOTHIN 'BOUT NO ROUMEVILLE BUT YOU WOULDN'T BE GOIN TO IDAHO, ARE YA?

AFTER DIGGING DEEPLY INTO A NUMBER OF SMALL TOWNS

I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO HAD HEARD OF A PLACE SIMILAR TO WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR. THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO.

BUT SO FAR, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING CLOSE.
AGREEING TO COVER THIS STORY WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE SO THAT NOBODY WILL COMPLAIN IF I GO BACK EMPTY-HANDED.
CAN'T FIND A DECENT MOTEL AND I'M OUT OF GAS
WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO STAY TONIGHT?
I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR TEN DAYS, WHICH MEANS I DID ALL I COULD.
SHOULD I JUST GIVE UP?
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
WHEEEE
WHEEEE
WHEEEE
WHEEEE

HELLO, FATHER!
I NEED TO ASK YOU FOR SOME DIRECTIONS!
WHAT IS IT?
IS THERE A VILLAGE CALLED ROUREVILLE AROUND HERE BY ANY CHANCE?
SWISH
WHEEZE
ROUREVILLE.
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS THERE?
I'M EVAN PRYCE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES. WE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT GHOSTS APPEAR IN...
HAH!
GHOSTS? SACRILEGIOUS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN NOR HEARD OF SUCH A GROTESQUE PLACE
YOU BETTER GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS TO YOU...
WA... WAIT...!

OW!!
WHEEEE~
A BUST OF WIND OUT OF NOWHERE?
I BETTER FIND SOMEWHERE TO STAY BEFORE IT GETS DARK.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO DOWN THAT BYPATH THE OLD PRIEST DISAPPEARED INTO.
THAT GUY BOTHERED THE HELL OUT OF ME.
SWISH
ROUREVILLE...
A BROKEN AND NEGLECTED SIGN...
ROUREVILLE...

WHY, THAT LYING FAKE PRIEST!!
TERRIBLE THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO ME, MY ASS!

A SECLUDED VILLAGE~, JUST AS I EXPECTED

RENFE
AHELLOS

RING THIS UP, PLEASE.
I GUESS PEOPLE DO LIVE HERE.
HOWDY STRANGER. THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN ROUREVILLE?
SHE'S CUTE. A RARE FIND IN A COUNTRY TOWN LIKE THIS.
A BABY FACE WITH A CIGARETTE.
A FRESH COMBINATION. I LIKE IT.
YEAH. I THINK I TOOK A WRONG TURN.
IS THERE ANYWHERE I CAN STAY?

I'M SORRY BUT THIS IS SUCH A SMALL TOWN THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY LODGING FACILITIES
OH, NO~!
IT'LL BE BETTER FOR YOU TO GET ON THE HIGHWAY AND FIND A MOTEL BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN
I SEE I'VE RUN OUT OF GAS TOO DAMN IT
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT I HEARD SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT THIS PLACE
I HEARD A GHOST HAS BEEN SHOWING UP HERE
THUD
67
IT EVEN HAS A NAME ACCORDING TO THE STORY
JESS ! JAMES WAS IT?
UHM~!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT INFORMATION BUT...
HUNG
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL~
OH.
WHY DON'T YOU CHECK IT OUT

FOR YOURSELFF

THIS WAS
MY FIRST
ENCOUNTER
WITH HIM.

Roureville

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ROUKEVILLE #03
THE GHOST, THE MAN,
AND JAYCE

JUST NOW...
WAS THAT AN ILLUSION?
MR. PRYCE..?
AH YES
IS HE THAT "D"?

CAN YOU SEE JAYCE MR PRYCE?
YES... HE HAS TWO FEET, AND--
YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
I CAN SEE HIM VERY CLEARLY DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SUN IS STILL UP -- HE MUST BE PRETTY HEALTHY
HAHAHA--
WELL, I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN, BUT...
P&T
ALL I CAN DO IS LAUGH AT THE RESULT I'VE BEEN EXPECTING ALL ALONG.

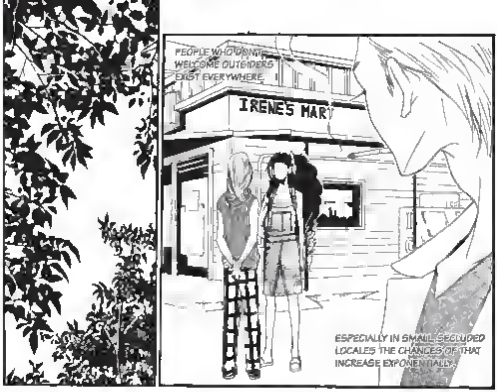
I HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS SINCE THIS GHOST HAD A NAME AND EVERYTHING... I'M DISAPPOINTED
LIMM
HE SAYS THERE'S A RUMOR THAT YOU'RE A GHOST
TO HAVE TEN DAYS OF WORK END UP IN THE [illegible]
OF COURSE, THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN ALL THE TIME WHILE CHASING DOWN LEADS FOR A STORY
YOU'RE SLOW JAYCE
IRENE RING THESE UP PLEASE
WHAAA?!
WE GO.
THE REASON I'M FRUSTRATED IS PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M EXHAUSTED
WELL, SHALL I BANK ON THE HOSPITALITY OF THESE COUNTRY FOLKS?
HMM NOW I'M IN TROUBLE...

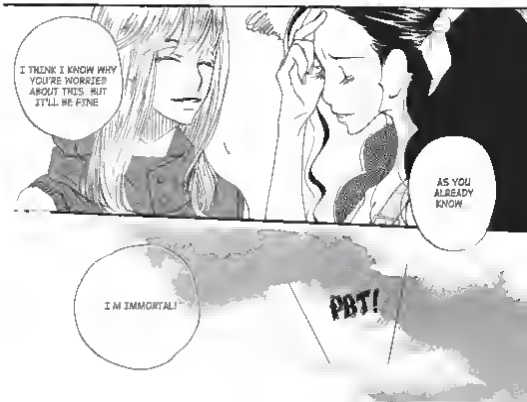
I RAN OUT OF GAS AND I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO STAY
OH NO!
RIGHT
I FORGOT I'LL LET YOU SIPHON SOME OF MY FUEL
CHEER UP!
IT'LL LAST UNTIL YOU GET TO THE MAIN ROAD AND FIND THE NEAREST MOTEL..
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU. PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU!
GRAB
GRAB
GRAB
UM

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU I CAN PUT YOU UP AT MY HOUSE
WHAT?
YOUR HOUSE IS A DISASTER AREA JAYCE
ARGH
HM IT'S IN REALLY BAD SHAPE. UM THE PAIN LEAVES ME UM UM
SEE? YOU THINK IT'LL BE OKAY?
NO. I'M OKAY WITH THAT

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR GIVING ME A PLACE TO STAY I DON'T MIND
I'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR SO LONG THAT I'M UTTERLY EXHAUSTED
AS LONG AS THE PLACE HAS WALLS AND A ROOF-- EVEN A BARN IS WELCOME

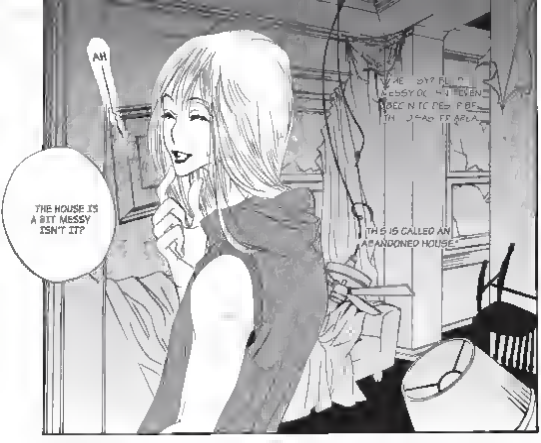
THAT'S GOOD~
EH HEH
AHHH

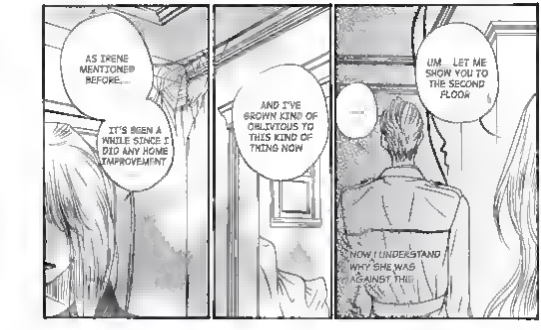

PEOPLE WHO DON'T WELCOME OUTSIDERS EXIST EVERYWHERE.
IRENE'S HAIR
ESPECIALLY IN SMALL, SECLUDED LOCALES THE CHANCES OF THAT INCREASE EXPONENTIALLY.


I THINK I KNOW WHY YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THIS, BUT IT'LL BE FINE.
AS YOU ALREADY KNOW...
I'M IMMORTAL!
PBT!

THAT GIRL NAMED IRENE...
SHE'S SMILING, BUT SHE'S NERVOUS.
WHY...?
SOMETHING'S UP
YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR CAR HERE.
JUST CALL ME JAYDE
IT'S WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE
SEEMS LIKE YOU LIVE CLOSE BY MR...?

WELL, WHATEVER. IT'D NONE OF MY CONCERN.
WHEEEE
JAYCE DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY OR SOMEONE ELSE YOU RE LIVING WITH?
NOPE I LIVE BY MYSELF


AH
THE HOUSE IS A BIT MESSY ISN'T IT?
THIS IS CALLED AN ABANDONED HOUSE.


AS IRENE MENTIONED BEFORE...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I DID ANY HOME IMPROVEMENT
AND I'VE GROWN KIND OF OBLIVIOUS TO THIS KIND OF THING NOW
UM... LET ME SHOW YOU TO THE SECOND FLOOR
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WAS AGAINST THE

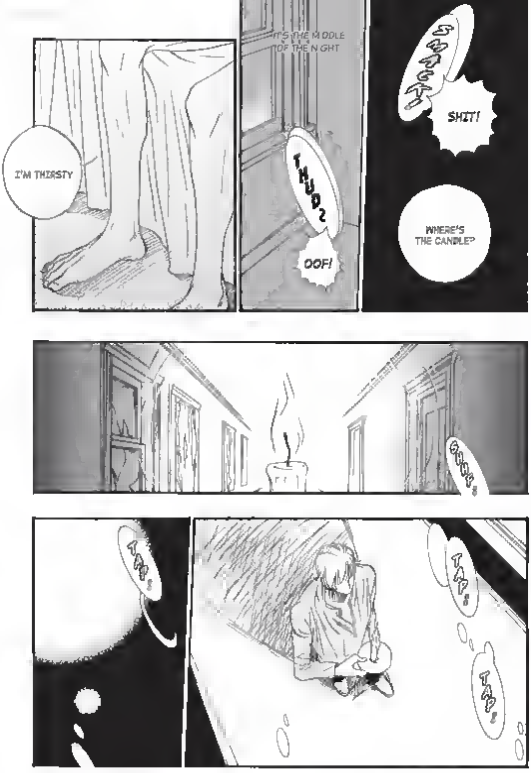
THE GUEST ROOM IS PRETTY DECENT AT LEAST. IT EVEN HAS A BATHROOM ATTACHED TO IT TOO
OH, THE LIGHT? I DON'T GET ELECTRICITY IN THIS HOUSE
LOOK INSIDE THE DESK DRAWERS YOU'LL FIND SOME CANDLES

THEN..
THE HOUSE IS DISHEVELLED BUT I HOPE YOU SLEEP WELL.~

CLICK

THIS GUY NAMED JAYCE IS A BIT WEIRD BUT HE SEEMS HARMLESS.
NO CONNECTION...
THEN THIS TOO ?
HMMM
BEEP
OF COURSE...
WELL, THIS IS COMFORTABLE IN ITS OWN WAY.
SIGH
CELL PHONE AND WIRELESS INTERNET DON'T WORK.
JUST LIKE MY DOGS SAID, NOT EVEN TERRORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO TRACK ME DOWN TO THIS PLACE.

MAYBE TAKING SOME TIME OFF, LIKE THE JERKS BACK IN NEW YORK HAVE BEEN PESTERING ME TO DO, WON'T BE A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL.
A PLACE LIKE THIS WILL PROBABLY BE PROBLEM FREE.


I'M THIRSTY
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
THUD
OOF!
SMACK
SHIT!
WHERE'S THE CANDLE?
GRRR...
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

SHOOK.
MAYBE MY FOOTSTEPS ARE ECHOING SO LOUDLY BECAUSE THE HOUSE IS OLD.
SHOOK.
CLICK
FLICKER
SWISH

OOF!
OOF!
OOF!
THUMP
THUMP
RRIP
HUFF
HUFF
HUF
IT'S A CURTAIN

THIS HOUSE IS SO DESOLATE... I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE A REAL GHOST HERE.
?
LIGHTS
AT THIS HOUR?

A GHOST...
NO... IT CAN'T BE.
...JAYCEE

HA
STALKING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT NO WONDER SOME PEOPLE THINK HE'S A GHOST
WHEEEE...
WHEEEE...

SHH...
WHOA
MAYBE I WAS MISTAKEN.
LET ME JUST GET SOME WATER...
JAYCE
SEEMS LIKE HE HAS A STORY TO TELL...

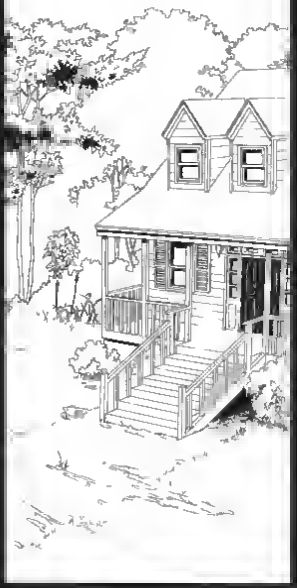
BUT...
I DON'T "HEAR" ANYTHING YET.
LOOK HERE MR. PRYCE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SO YOU'RE A JOURNALIST?
FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES TO BOOT?!
AH-AH... I CAN FEEL THE DISPLEASURE WELLING UP FROM WITHIN HER.

Roureville

VOL.1 Ch.3

ROUREVILLE #04-I
"VISITORS"



WHAT'S A TRASHY REPORTER LIKE YOU DOING IN A QUIET COUNTRY TOWN LIKE THIS~?
YOU SEE THIS TRASHY REPORTER IS ON VACATION

VACATION?
HMM
VACATION FOR HOW LONG?
ABOUT 2, 3 DAYS IDK NOT SURE
I ALREADY GOT PERMISSION FROM JAYCE

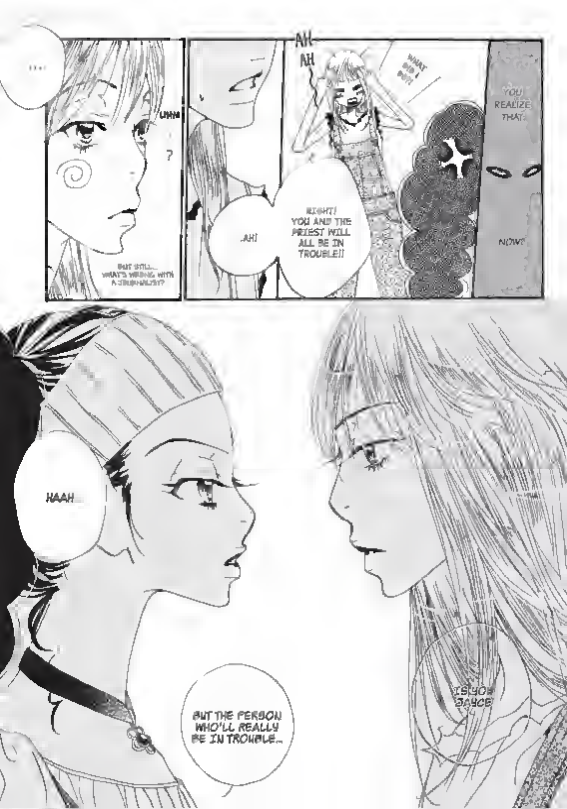
THANKFULLY
SABOE SAID I CAN STAY AS LONG AS I WISH
PROVIDED THAT I CAN SURVIVE THIS REDNECK ATMOSPHERE.
LOOKS LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE TO LOUNGE AROUND, READING BOOKS
YOU TALK ABOUT HIM AS IF HE'S YOUR PAL ALREADY

BECAUSE I WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO STAY
ANYWAY, ME BEING A NEW YORK TIMES JOURNALIST — WHICH GRAPEVINE DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?

I SEE NEWS TRAVELS FAST IN A RICK TOWN
STUNNING FACE...
WHAT'S SHE NERVOUS ABOUT?
THIS VACATION OF YOURS YOU BETTER WRAP IT UP PRETTY SOON!
P-PFF
THAT WEIRD PRIEST
HE'S DEFINITELY A PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, HUH?
SUCH AN UNCOMMONLY CUTE FACE FOR A PLACE LIKE THIS, BUT SHE AIN'T VERY NICE

BRINGING THAT DANGEROUS MAN INTO YOUR HOUSE
YOU...WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
DANGEROUS?

SAYS HE'S A REPORTER FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES! NO WONDER HE LOOKED SO SMUG
PSHH
SNORT
THE NEW YORK TIMES...
WELL HE DIDN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE A BAD PERSON
STOP BEING SO NAIVE AND TELL HIM TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS HIS VACATION'S OVER!


...
UHH
?
BUT STILL... WHAT'S WRONG WITH A SUNFLOWER?
AH AH
WHAT DO I DO!?
YOU REALIZE THAT...
NOW?
AH!
RIGHT! YOU AND THE PRIEST WILL ALL BE IN TROUBLE!!
HAAH...
BUT THE PERSON WHO'LL REALLY BE IN TROUBLE...
ISUYO BAYOE

WHATEVER'S FINE WITH US
ALTHOUGH CORETTA WILL BE A LITTLE CRAZY
PLEASE BE MORE CAUTIOUS NEXT TIME
FOR ME ...
I'M YOUR FRIEND RIGHT?

I'M OFF NOW
DON'T FORGET WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU!
TAP.

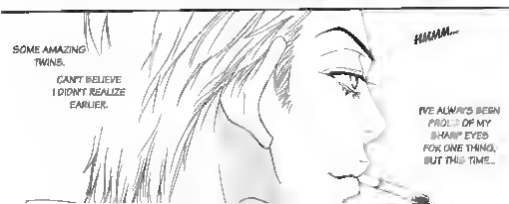
PUFF
PUFF
SO YOU'RE THE FANCY JOURNALIST DUDE WHO CAME ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK TO VISIT THIS HICK TOWN?
PUFF
ROLL...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU NEED FROM HERE. BETTER BEAT IT WHILE YOU'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE
THAT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS
AND YOU ARE ?
I CAN FEEL IT. HER'S DEFINITELY HOSTILE TOWARD ME.

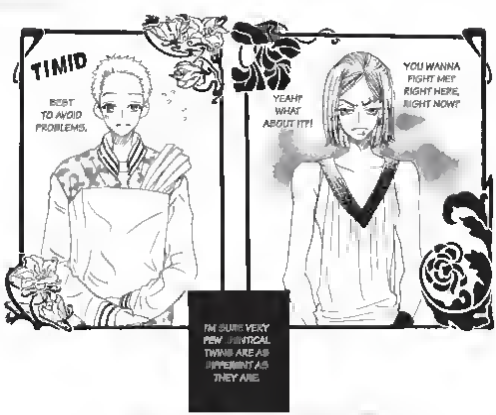
FUCK OFF!
ANNOYING JERK!
YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET YOU TOUCH ODELL?
AHA... NOW, NOW...
WHAT AN UNWELCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD...
YOU LAUGHING? WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
I WARNED YOU, BUDDY. DON'T REGRET IT!

SWISH
HA HA HA
WE'LL SEE IF YOU LAUGH LIKE THAT NEXT TIME WE MEET
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP

AS ARTLESS AS HE WAS IT WAS EASY TO GUESS WHAT HE WAS THINKING
THE STRONGER THE EMOTION, THE EASIER IT REGISTERS.
"ODELL." HUH?
WHO IS HE TRYING TO PROTECT?
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF IT, THEIR TROUBLE'S COME CRAWLING INTO MY BED WHISPER, WHISPER...

NO
I SHOULDN'T
I'M ON
VACATION
I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
DEMONSTRATING
MY JOURNALISTIC
ABILITY WHILE
HERE.
WHATEVER THEIR
SITUATION IS,
IT'S NONE OF
MY BUSINESS.
A-HA!
NO WONDER
HE LOOKED
FAMILIAR...
OR
COURSE
IT ISN'T.
THAT GUY AT
THE SUPERMARKET
WHO LOOKED LIKE
A SCARED RABBIT--.


SOME AMAZING
TWINS.
CAN'T BELIEVE
I DIDN'T REALIZE
EARLIER.
HMMM...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN
PROUD OF MY
SHARP EYES
FOR ONE THING,
BUT THIS TIME...


TIMID
BEST TO AVOID PROBLEMS.
YEAH? WHAT ABOUT IT?
YOU WANNA FIGHT ME? RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?
I'M SURE VERY FEW IDENTICAL TWINS ARE AS DIFFERENT AS THEY ARE.

IDENTICAL OR FRATERNAL, WHATEVER KIND OF TWINS THEY ARE, THEY'RE NOT MY CONCERN.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO FIND JANICE AND HAVE LUNCH OR SOMETHING.
BEFORE I GET MORE VISITORS

ガチャ
WORRIED

DON'T... IN... RUN AWAY... THAT...
THE KID... WANTED TO LIVE...

IT'S JAYCE. WHO'S THE OTHER GUY?
...

YOU
IS TO LIVE
UNGRATEFUL
YOUR SONS ...!!
KNOCK
THE TOSSANT LOOK LIKE A GOOD TIME TO BUTT IN AND ASK IF HE WANTS TO EAT.

EXPRESSION OF EXTREME PAIN.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT...? THE DISMAL ATMOSPHERE... AS IF HE'S DONE SOMETHING WORTHY OF THE DEATH PENALTY
MAYBE I'LL GO FOR A WALK.
I WON'T LIKE THIS.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE THING I FIND STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE, BUT...

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A RELAXING VACATION — FIRST ONE IN YEARS...

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

PRETTY QUIET AROUND HERE

ONE OR TWO CLOSED STORES... NOT MANY RESIDENTIAL HOUSES, EITHER.

IS JUNE'S SHOP THE ONLY STORE IN THIS TOWN?

ALL I CAN SEE IS PEACEFUL SCENERY.

THE JERKS BACK IN NEW YORK ARE PROBABLY GOING NUTS TRYING TO MEET THE DEADLINE ABOUT NOW.
HMF
NEW YORK...

HA
EVAN...
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS...
CLEO...
CLEOPATRA...
GULP
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS ALREADY...
OW, OW, OW!
CLEO, MY FIANCÉE.
I COMPLETELY FORGOT
SHIT!
OUR PARENTS BROUGHT US TOGETHER IN A RELATIONSHIP I SHOULD HAVE SEVERED A LONG TIME AGO.
SHE MUST BE REALLY PISSED OFF. THAT WITCH.
BUT STRANGELY ENOUGH, I CAN'T BE CRUEL TO HER. AND I'M FAR FROM BEING ONE OF THOSE TOUCHY-FEELY GUYS.

MY HEAD IS AS COOL AS A CUCUMBER, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE.
I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN'T EVER BE ELECTED BY SOMETHING AS PETTY AS A RELATIONSHIP, FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.
WHAT MOTIVATES ME IS MORE LIKE "ANGER" THAN "LOVE."
I SHOULD HAVE CALLED CLEO THAT WAY I COULD HAVE AVOIDED GETTING PITCHED AT LATER.
I THINK ABOUT THIS FROM TIME TO TIME.
THE REASON WHY I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR HER...
IS IT BECAUSE I YEARN FOR THE LOVABLE KIND LIKE HER?
SIGH
OR IS IT BECAUSE OF THE HATRED I HAVE TOWARDS THAT ADMIRABLE COURAGE,
WHICH ENABLES HER TO NOT GIVE UP ON A WASTE OF SPACE LIKE ME?

SEEMS LIKE THE TIGHTENED SCREWS I SLOWLY COMING LOOSE..
A CHURCH? LOOKS LIKE THEY ALTERED A RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
CREAK

ALRIGHT CHRIS BEFORE SUNSET

THE FAKE PRIEST?
FA...THER?
GRIN GRIN
YES?
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU NEVER HEARD OF ROUNEVILLE?

NO... YOUR HEARING DECLINES AS YOU GET OLDER. WEREN'T YOU LOOKING FOR "SOUTEVILLE?"
RUB
HA HA HA
WHAT KIND OF PRIEST ARE YOU TO LIE WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE?
AS AN APOLOGY LET ME OFFER YOU A GLASS OF MY SPECIAL LEMONADE. PLEASE HAVE SOME BEFORE YOU GO

CHRIS~ BRING US A GLASS OF "THAT THING" YOU MADE A MOMENT AGO~!

GULP
PLURP
PLURP

YEAH — THERE EXPRESSIONS BACTHAT PUT SOMETHING INSIDE THEM?
HERE
SIP
A GLASS OF LEMONADE JUST BRIMMING WITH EVIL INTENTIONS.
THIS IS ROUNDVILLE'S WAY OF WELCOMING STRANGERS.
CLINK
CLINK
WHEN DID HE MAKE THIS ANYWAY?
WELL... SINCE IT'S SO SPECIAL HOW CAN I REFUSE?
GULP
IT WON'T KILL ME.
GULP
I'LL GLADLY DRINK IT UP!
GULP

Roureville

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GULP

GULP

GULP

EEK!

GULP

GULP

ROUREVILLE #04-II
"VISITORS"

SMILE
HA HA
WHA..! WHAT DO WE DO NOW, FATHER?
UHM... I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD ACTUALLY DRINK IT!
SMILE
SHAKE
WHAT'S WRONG? ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU PEOPLE WANTED?
HE DRANK IT! HE REALLY DRANK IT!
LOOK AT THEIR FACES...

SLIDE
GRIN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY PUT IN THAT DRINK, BUT IT SURE TASTES NASTY
THANK YOU IT HAS A VERY UNIQUE TASTE.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ARSENIC OR ANYTHING WELL, I SUPPOSE NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN.
NO I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR ENJOYING MY LEMONADE SO MUCH
HA HA HA
OH LORD
THAT WORLD PRIEST IS ACTING DIFFERENT NOW.
SO, DOES THIS MEAN I PASSED THEIR LITTLE TEST?
YOU WON'T EVEN MAKE A NATURAL BORN VILLAIN.
STOP BY FROM TIME TO TIME
RATTLE RATTLE
...WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN? NO MORE THAN BEING DEAD RIGHT?!
HA HA

DETERMINED
WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, I'LL JUST TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THAT MEANS THE ELECTRIC CHAIR OR SUFFERING HELL ITSELF!
FEARLESS

GOOD LUCK.
YOU ANNOYING...
TREMBLE
YOUNG MAN~
WHAT IF IT WORKS~? WHAT WILL WE DO~?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HEH

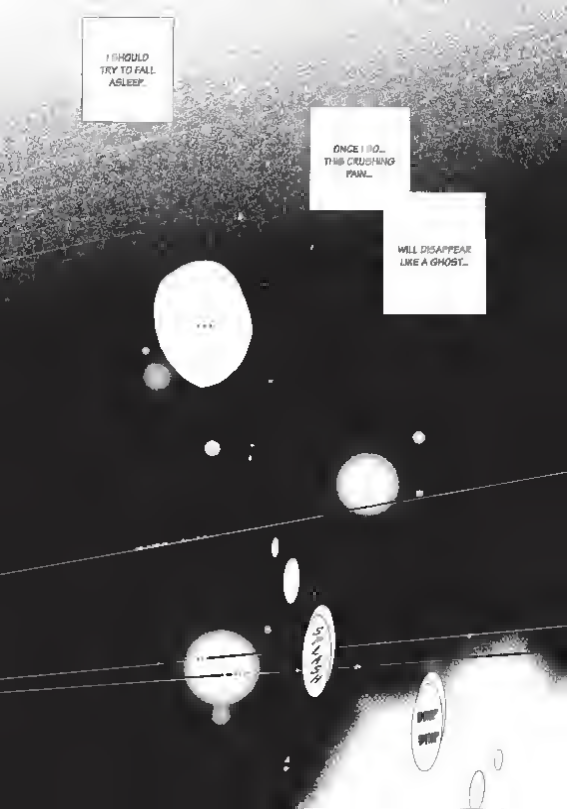
YOU'RE A VILLAIN, AFTER ALL!! YOU WERE BORN BAD!!

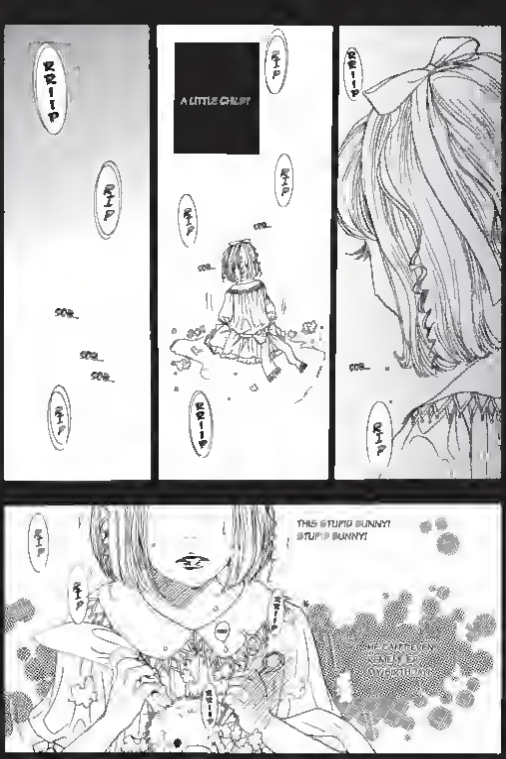
MY TEMPERATURE IS RISING.
LIGHT-HEADED...
HA HA
TAP
TAP
MAYBE I'M FEELING THIS WAY JUST BECAUSE I'VE "HEARD" THE BAD INTENTIONS OF THAT SCHOOL FRIEND...
AN INTENSELY ACRID TASTE RUNS DOWN MY THROAT.
I'M GETTING COLD SWEATS... MY EYESIGHT KEEPS CLOUDING
EVAN
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME. THIS IS

HE LOOKS RATHER HANDSOME UP CLOSE.
MAN
YES. I'M EVAN PRYCE.
THEN, WHY WAS HE SO...
ZZNNNG
...THAT ANGRY VISITOR FROM EARLIER TODAY?
THIS IS OBBIE JOHNSON, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF MINE.
NICE TO MEET YOU, SO, YOU COME FROM NEW YORK, YES?

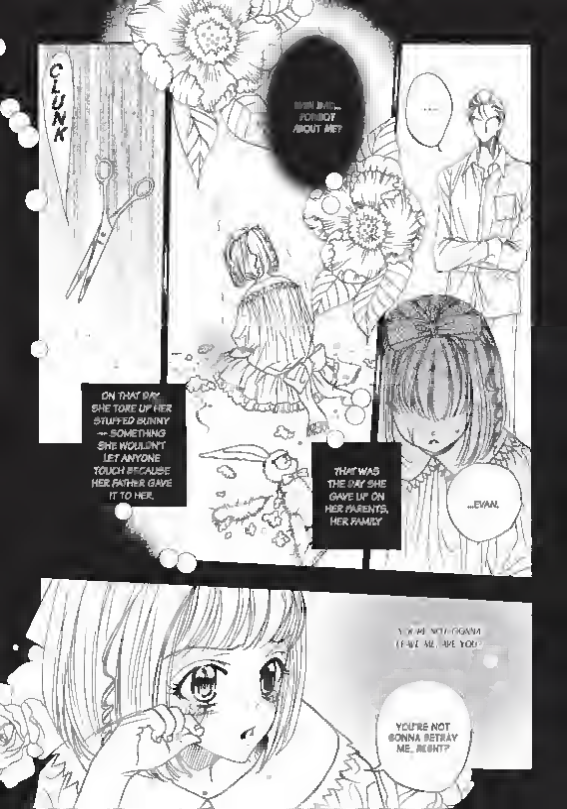
THAT OLD GEEZER... IS HE REALLY TRYING TO KILL ME?
THIS WAN'T JUST SOME STUPID LAXATIVE.
ACK
EVAN?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
GURGLE
SHIT
GURGLE
B4ARF
WHAT.
WHUH
MY WHOLE STOMACH IS FLIPPING.
MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S BEING SQUEEZED OUT.
SPLASH
THUD
AM I DYING...?
EVAN!

MR. PRYCE!
EVAN! WAKE UP!
LOOK HERE!
HEY.
THIS IS LAME...
MY LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO FLASH BEFORE MY EYES.
WHY ARE YOU STANDING SO FAR AWAY WITH THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
WHY DON'T YOU COME NEARER?
AHH... IT'S GETTING DARK.


I SHOULD TRY TO FALL ASLEEP...
ONCE I DO... THIS CRUSHING PAIN...
WILL DISAPPEAR LIKE A GHOST...
...
SNORE
WHIR WHIR


RRIIP
RIP
SOB
SOB
SOB
RIP
A LITTLE CHILD!
RIP
RIP
RIP
SOB
RRIIP
RRIIP
RIP
RIP
RIP
RIP
RIP
THIS STUPID BUNNY!
STUPID BUNNY!
SHE'S ATTACKED
SENSEI BY
MISTAKE!!!

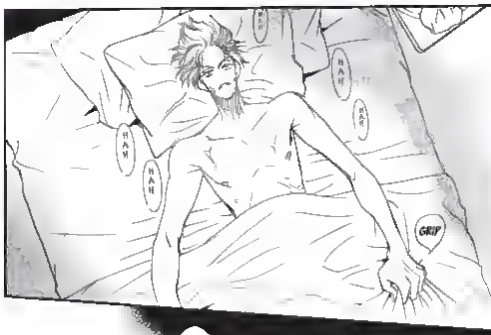
...I TOLERATED EVERYTHING WHEN MOM ABANDONED OUR HOME TO RUN AWAY WITH THE TENNIS INSTRUCTOR. I LIVED WITH IT
SOB
AH... I REMEMBER THIS GIRL.
AND WHEN THE OTHER KIDS MADE FUN OF ME. I PUT UP WITH THAT TOO. WHEN MY FATHER SENT ME TO BOARDING SCHOOL I DIDN'T COMPLAIN
THIS WAS THE DAY...
WHEN LITTLE CLEO STOPPED CRYING.
BUT DADDY...
TREMBLE
IT WAS CLEO'S 6TH BIRTHDAY
YOU WENT ON A VACATION WITH YOUR SECRETARY BITCH?!


CLUNK
EVEN DAD... FORGOT ABOUT ME?
...
ON THAT DAY SHE TORE UP HER STUFFED BUNNY -- SOMETHING SHE WOULDN'T LET ANYONE TOUCH BECAUSE HER FATHER GAVE IT TO HER.
THAT WAS THE DAY SHE GAVE UP ON HER PARENTS, HER FAMILY
...EVAN.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA LEAVE ME, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BETRAY ME, RIGHT?

KUH...
KUH!
KUH KUH!
SHOULD I ANSWER...
HUH
DEI?
DEI?
DEI?
DEI?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA LEAVE ME, ARE YOU?
I NEED TO ANSWER THOSE DESPERATE EYES...

DRIP
DRIP
WHY...?
GASP!
STAGGER
THE AWFUL SMELL OF NOTHING BUT BLOOD
TAP
WHY DID YOU KILL...?
WHY DID YOU...
KILL US?
GET AWAY!
IT...
IT WASN'T ME!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

SNIFF!
DON'T LOOK!
IT WASN'T ME!
DON'T LOOK
DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE EYES!
WHY...?



...THAT WAS APPALLING.

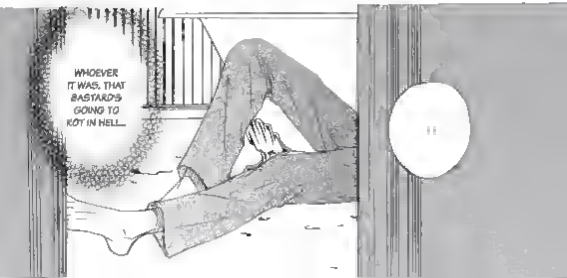
DAMN IT...

IT WAS HARD TO LOOK AT.

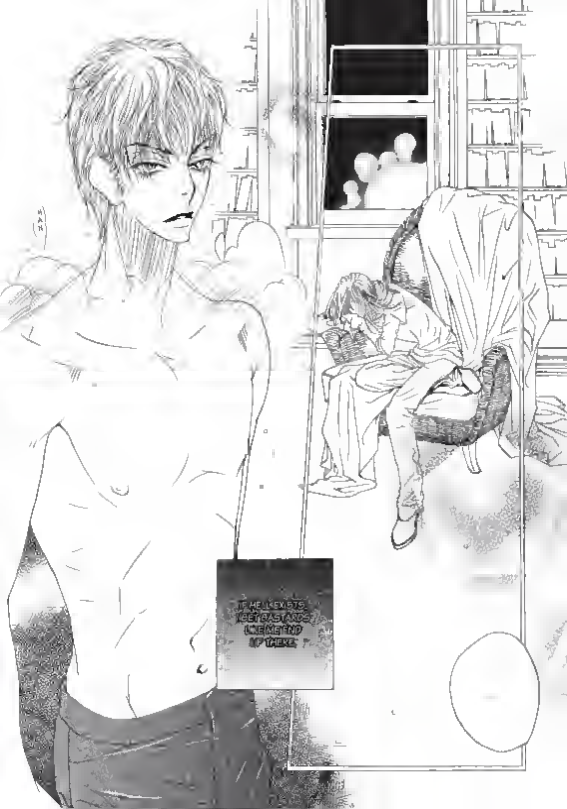
HOW CAN ANYONE DO SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS TO ANY CHILD, REGARDLESS WHETHER SHE WAS THEIRS OR NOT?

I LATER LEARNED THE KID'S MOTHER HUNG HERSELF IN THAT ROOM.
URG
TAP
TAP
TAP
BARRF
HOW AWFUL...

BARF


WHOEVER IT WAS, THAT BASTARD'S GOING TO ROT IN HELL...
...

IT WASN'T ME!
I COULDN'T HELP IT. I HAD NO CHOICE BACK THEN.
HAH
YEAH, THAT'S HOW I'VE LIVED MY LIFE, BY STEPPING ON OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD AND PAIN.
I'M NOT EVEN REMORSEFUL.


IF HE'S EXISTS
FEEL AS LONG
LIKE HE'LL
BE THERE

HA!
DID HE FALL ASLEEP WHILE THINKING OF ME?

HE'S A STRANGE KID...
HE'S FRAGILE AND NEUROTIC, AND SO TRUSTING OF OTHERS.
HUH?
I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

GLANCE
CHILL
I DON'T POSSESS ANY TALENT FOR SEEING GHOSTS.

HAH
AN APPARITION APPEARS NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN UP ON THE ARTICLE!!

I FEEL THAT SOMETHING REALLY ANNOYING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN

IS THIS WORLD HAD NOTHING LEFT TO OFFER ANYMORE...
NO WAY!
LIKE WE'RE GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN JAYCE. SAY SOMETHING!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, FATHER!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON SETTLING HERE?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB AT THE NEW YORK TIMES? YOU WERE LYING ABOUT BEING A JOURNALIST, WEREN'T YOU?
HAH
STILL, HE'S SICK... SO... UM...
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING SO INCREDIBLY PRETENTIOUS AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
UGH!

MY CONDITION IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT...
COF
COF
BUT, I CERTAINLY DON'T THINK IT WAS THE LEM-ON ADE, FATHER
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH. I'M SURE I'LL GET BETTER IF I STAY AS LONG AS I NEED TO
KOF
DOF
URG!
OUCH.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...
FOR BEING SUCH A BURDEN ON ALL OF YOU
KOFF
BOF
THESE CANDY-TOWN FOLK ACT SO OBVIOUS. I CAN'T HEAR THEM, BUT IT'S EASY TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.
TUMBLE!
SHIT
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? YOU SHOULD HAVE USED HERBICIDE!
THAT LEAVES EVIDENCE.
HERBICIDE?
THAT MAKES IT A MURDER CASE WELL BEFORE IT COMES TO THAT.
MY BRAIN STARTS TO ITCH...
LOOKING AT THEM, A THOUGHT IS ABOUT TO POP INTO MY MIND...
...WHAT COULD IT BE?

Roureville

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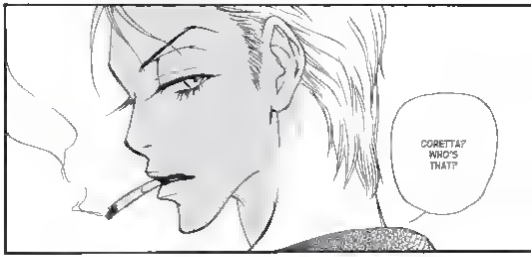
SINCE DOING NOTHING MAKE MY HANDS ITCH...

I STARTED WRITING A NOVEL.



THE TEMPORARY TITLE:

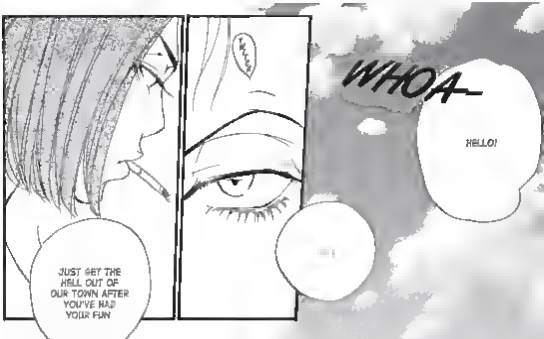
"ROUREVILLIAN."

ROUREVILLE #05
"ROUREVILLIAN"

YO-
...I CALLED FOR A CARPENTER
I AM THE CARPENTER.
GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
HEY- ASSISTANT!
EVAN
A CARPENTER WEARING A DOLCE & GABBANA SUIT?!

NOW DON'T YOU LOOK HEALTHY
TAP
TOUGH BASTARD! I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM RAT POISON.

WELL, AS YOU KNOW THERE ARE SUCH THINGS AS AFTER-EFFECTS
SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA MOVE IN -- FIXING UP THE HOUSE AND ALL HUH?
THE ONLY REASON WHY I'M DOING THESE REPAIRS IS FOR THAT IDIOT JAYCE.


WHOA
HELLO!
JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR TOWN AFTER YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN

MY NAME'S SKIPPY
I'M MR. CORETTA'S ASSISTANT~
"WHOA"?
MY NAME IS EVAN PRYCE AS YOU ALREADY KNOW
YEAH FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES RIGHT?
GASP
YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S A GHOST IN THIS TOWN?
DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE RIGHT?
I MEAN GHOSTS IN BRIGHT DAY LIGHT? KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
THEY GOSSIP ABOUT GHOSTS BUT DON'T SAY NOTHING TO US
...HE'S A NOISY ONE.

I LIVE WITH MY BROTHER'S FRIENDS,

BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE THAT LONG

I BET A LOT OF STINK EYE 'CAUSE I'M AN OUTSIDER

I MEAN TAKE THE GHOST THING FOR EXAMPLE THEY DON'T INCLUDE US IN THEIR CONVERSATION

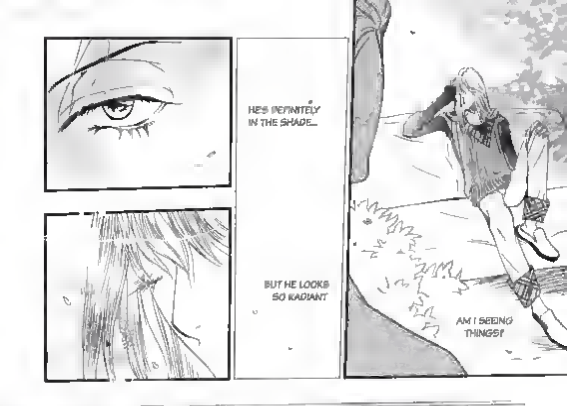
MISTER HAVE YOU SEEN A GHOST IN THIS HOUSE?
PAFFLE
THIS IS THE PLACE FOR GHOSTLY APPEARANCES THEY SAY~
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY
YAK
YAK
I THINK IT'S A TALL TALE THE TOWNSPEOPLE CREATED TO MAKE FUN OF OUTSIDERS

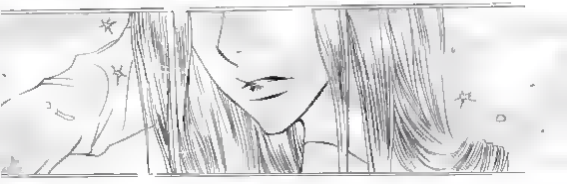
ANYWAY
ARE YOU REALLY WRITING AN ARTICLE ABOUT IT?
ANGELES CITY
TIMES
NEW
PUFF
HEY
YES?
I'M NOT WORKING I'M ON VACATION
OR SHOULD I SAY RECUPERATING?
HEY! SCUMPY!
PAW
OOF!
BUT, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE AND...
YOU IDIOT! ARE YOU GONNA WEASEL YOUR WAY OUT OF WORK LIKE THAT ALL WAY?
YOU WANT ME TO ZOOM OUT THERE AND KICK YOUR ASS?

I'M COMING I'M COMING~
WHIRL~
WHIRL~
SHOOT! THAT NASTY TEMPER.
HE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM ODELL
THEN I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
ANYWAY SO IT'S TRUE THAT THIS GUY IS A NEW YORK TIMES JOURNALIST!
HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE SNEAKY TYPE...
HE'S WHAT IS YEAKS TO DIAL THE MOST?
WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO FIG OUT OF ME?

THIS FOOL. THAT FOOL. ALL OF THEM...
ARE HIDING SOMETHING.
JAYCE-

JAYCE
DINNER
SMISH





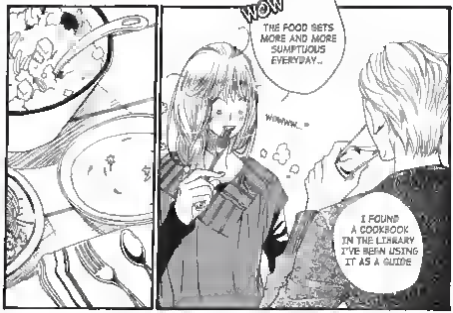
THEY'RE NOT PLEADING AT ALL...

THOSE EYES STARING FARAWAY INTO EMPTY SPACE WITHOUT FOCUS.

SEEMS LIKE HE'S CONTAINING LOTS OF EMOTIONS.

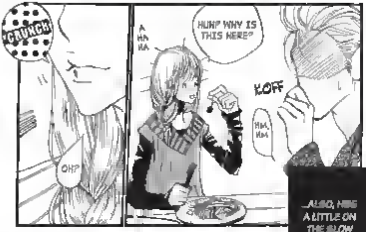
I STILL CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

EVERYTHING IS SILENT.
EVAN?
I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
YEAH. DINNER IS READY
THE FACT THAT I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING MAKES ME MORE NERVOUS THAN I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE.



I'VE BEEN SERVING AS A CHEF IN THIS HOUSE FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS. THIS WOULD'VE NEVER HAPPENED IN MY LIFE OTHERWISE.

JAYCE ISN'T INTERESTED IN COOKING, NOR DOES HE HAVE THE ABILITY OR NECESSARY PALATE FOR THE JOB...



YOU KNOW EVAN... YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO COOK
I FEEL BAD THAT YOU KEEP DOING THIS EVERY DAY
TOSS
CONSIDER IT PAYMENT FOR ROOM AND BOARD. I CAN'T STAY HERE FOR FREE
"NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION."
I CAN'T LIVE ON JUST CEREAL LIKE YOU MY FRIEND.

OKAY
DUMP
WHAT AN IDIOT.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO EAT IT, HE CAN JUST SAY NO. YET HE FORCES EVERYTHING DOWN HIS THROAT.
MUNCH
YOU WANT TO REPAIR THE HOUSE?
WHAT ABOUT KIMP
OH, YEAH ABOUT CORETTA...
DUNK

YOU'RE ASKING ME THAT NOW?!
CHILL
EEP!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID I CAN DO AS I PLEASE
HUH?
YEAH, RIGHT
CLINK
IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE AT HOME...
I SEE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "I SEE?"
THIS IS HIS HOUSE AND HE'S ALL INTIMIDATED AND CAN'T SAY SHIT TO ME.
MOIRON!

「DEVELOPED A TIMID AND IRRESOLUTE PERSONALITY
DUE TO BEING RAISED BY AN OVERBEARING SINGLE MOTHER.」

A mind and immature personality due to being raised by an overbearing single mother. A character who is also dim-witted and therefore easily used or taken advantage of by others...
「...A CHARACTER WHO IS ALSO DIM-WITTED AND THEREFORE EASILY USED OR TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BY OTHERS... 」
BY OTHERS UHM?
BLINK
BLINK
PIIUUUU
HEY!
THE BATTERY !
PLOP
I SHOULD CALL AN ELECTRICIAN TOMORROW TOO

THEY ONLY STICK TOGETHER BY THEMSELVES"
I BET A LOT OF STINK EYE 'CAUSE I COME FROM OUTSIDE
IT'LL BE BETTER FOR YOU TO BET ON THE HIGHWAY AND FIND A MOTEL BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN
I FORGOT I'LL LET YOU SIPHON SOME OF MY FUEL.

KIND AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT EXCLUSIVE

BLUNT, AND THEY ALL HAVE A SECRET THEY WANT TO HIDE.

"KOUREVILLIAN."

THOSE WHO LIVE IN KOUREVILLE, THOSE WHO POSSESS CHARACTERISTICS UNIQUE TO KOUREVILLE. PEOPLE OF KOUREVILLE. "KOUREVILLIAN."

HE'S ALMOST ALWAYS SMILING, BUT WEAK ON EXPRESSING HIS FEELINGS, AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING.

YOU.

WHAT SECRET ARE
YOU HIDING?

Roureville

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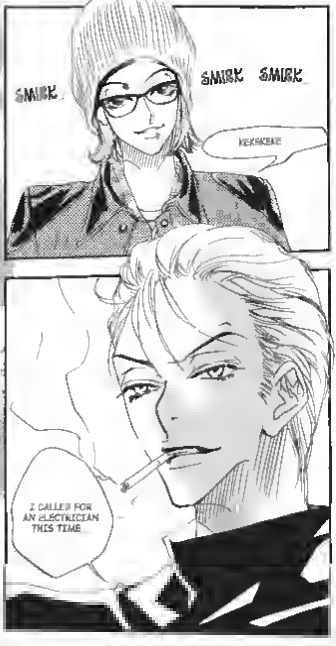
I NEED TO MOVE,
BUT CAN'T STIR AN INCH.

I WANT TO GET OUT,
BUT CAN'T TAKE A STEP.

THIS ENDLESS DARKNESS,
LIKE A BLIND CHILD,
WON'T ALLOW ME TO SEE
EVEN WHAT'S RIGHT
IN FRONT OF ME.

FOREVER AND EVER,
ALONE...

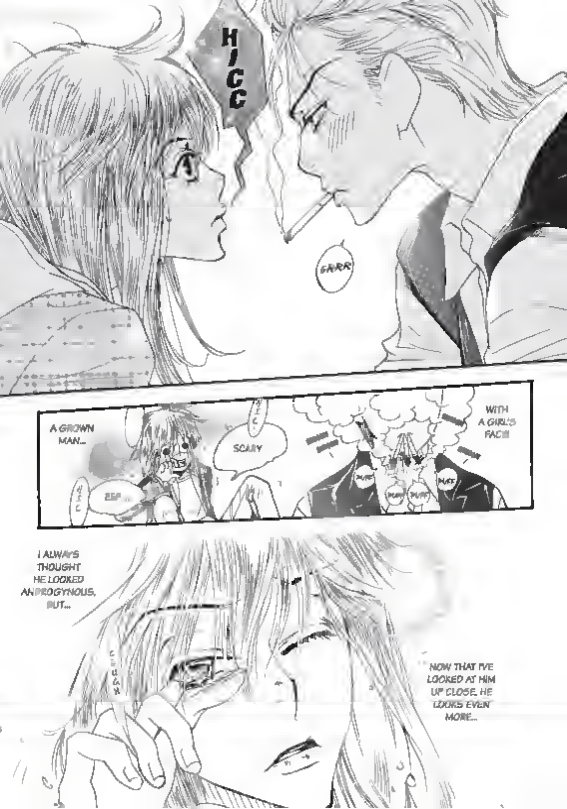
WHAT'S
THE POINT OF
GOING ON
LIKE THIS?


SMIRK
SMIRK SMIRK
HEHEHEHE
I CALLED FOR AN ELECTRICIAN THIS TIME.
YOU AGAIN?
THAT'S WHAT I DO ON THE SIDE.
SMIRK
POOF BY
NOW WHERE IS THAT GENERATOR?

DON'T...
SCREW WITH ME! WHO SAID I'M GONNA ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING AGAIN?
SMIRK
I REGRET TO INFORM YOU BUT~
I AM.
WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE THE ONLY ELECTRICIAN IN TOWN?
JEEZ. THIS IS THE PROBLEM WITH RURAL AREAS.
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OPTIONS!

CREEPY
YOU MEAN THE CONSTRUCTION WORK INSIDE THE HOUSE?
I'M FALLING BEHIND ON A LOT OF OTHER WORK. SO IT'LL BE A MONTH BEFORE I CAN WRAP UP. MAYBE YOU'LL GO BACK BEFORE THEN
I'LL FIX THE GENERATOR RIGHT AWAY, THOUGH
HEH HEH
JUST WATCH OUT FOR THE "ELECTROCUTION," BUDDY
KRLL
GACK
THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO KICK ME OUT
TAP TAP
FLAP

STARE
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
STARE
SLAM
!
FLASH
WHAT?!


HICC
GASP
A GROWN MAN...
HIC
ESP...
HIC
SCARY
WITH A GIRL'S FACE!!!
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE LOOKED ANDROGYNOUS, BUT...
SNIFF
NOW THAT I'VE LOOKED AT HIM UP CLOSE, HE LOOKS EVEN MORE...

HICC
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HE GETS ON MY NERVES
AH!
I SAID, WHAT IS IT?!
GROWL!
BOARD
THAT...!
@@@@@@
I WAS WONDERING WHY HE WAS COMING NEAR ME ALL OF A SUDDEN
WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE WRITING?
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
SHIT...

I CAN'T CONTROL MY EMOTIONS.

WHAT...?
WHAT STORY CAN I POSSIBLY COVER IN THIS BOONIES?
THAT JOHNSON'S CORN FIELD HAD A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!
AH... YEAH, I GUESS NOT, RIGHT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE...
HE'S THIS VERY?
RELIEVED.
RIGHT THAT KIND OF ARTICLE WOULDN'T
HO
MAYBE I SHOULD WRITE ABOUT HOW THE ONLY GROCERY STORE WITHIN A 42 KM RADIUS OF WHERE I AM
EVEN CARRIES "TI KUAN YIN TEA" OR "PUER TEA"?
HRN?!
THEY SELL THINGS LIKE THAT AT IRENE'S?
ANYWAY WHEN DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT EVAN?
YOU!
YOU'RE ANNOYING ME
IF I TELL YOU ONCE THAT I'M NOT GONNA DO SOMETHING I'M NOT GONNA DO IT
DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN

I'M GOING TO IRENE'S. YOU WANNA COME WITH ME?
LOOK!
HUH?
I... I'M SORRY

GRIN

I'M COLLAPSING.

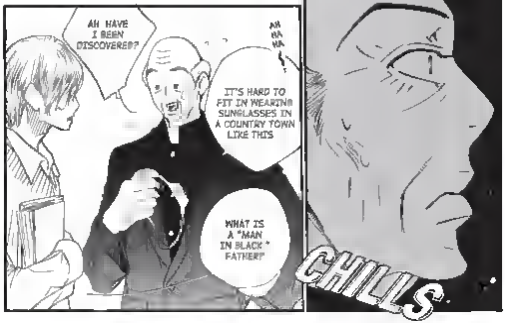
OKAY. I'VE GOT SOME ERRANDS TO RUN
YEAH
GRUH
GRUH
WHOT... WON'T YOU HAVE A DOORBELL?
FROM WAY DOWN AT THE VERY BOTTOM
I'M COLLAPSING
I REVEALED MY EMOTIONS.
IS IT BECAUSE HE'S ANNOYING? I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO SPEAK POLITELY AND MY WORDS CONVEY MY RAW EMOTIONS NOW
LITTLE BY LITTLE, SLOWLY BUT STEADILY CRACKS ARE STARTING TO APPEAR ONE BY ONE, AND I'M BREAKING DOWN.

MY PARALYZED EXPRESSIONS AND DISCONNECTED EMOTIONS
ARE SLOWLY WEARING AWAY
THE SCREWS THAT HAVE STARTED TO COME LOOSE ARE GAINING MOMENTUM.
HA HA HA
THIS TIME I WILL CERTAINLY SUCCEED!

HU HU HU HU HU HU HU
SLURP
SLURP
SINCE MY SPECIAL LEMONADE DIDN'T WORK, I'LL PRESENT YOU WITH MY SECRET SPECIALTY WINE.
HU HU HU HU HU
OH MAN...
HE HAD IT ONCE. HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE IT AGAIN
NOW THAT'S THE CATCH. HE'S GOING TO THINK "NO WAY ARE THEY GOING TO FILL THE SAME TRICK TWICE" YOU SEE?
THIS TIME, HE'LL BE HOSPITALISED AT THE VERY LEAST!
I TOLD YOU. IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK
BUT JAYCE BELIEVED ME.
I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS SORRY ABOUT LAST TIME^^. SO THIS TIME I'M GOING TO OFFER SOMETHING "THAT WORKS"!
AND HE SAID HE'LL BRING THAT CREEP OVER LATER
ACK!
HAHAHA--
JUST YOU WAIT YOU DEVIL
HE HE HE
THAT OVERCONFIDENCE IS ALL YOUR GOING, JAYCE...
JAYCE, YOU'RE A WEIRDO TO GET DUPED BY THAT OLD MAN...

FATHER! CHRIS...
A TOKEN OF MY APOLOGY
MINE THAT HAS BEEN MY FAMILY'S TREASURE FOR CENTURIES!
PSY
STILL DOING PRETTY WELL WITH THOSE OBVIOUS LIES.
WELL...!
THANK YOU. BUT PLEASE PUT IT AWAY FOR NOW
HU
GULP
SINCE IT'S SO PRECIOUS I MUST SHARE IT WITH YOU LATER, FATHER

WHY, THAT DEVIL!
AH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THAT REMINDS ME
SUNGLASSES ARE MORE SUITABLE THAN GOGGLES FOR A "MAN IN BLACK"


AH HAVE I BEEN DISCOVERED?
AH HA HA
IT'S HARD TO FIT IN WEARING SUNGLASSES IN A COUNTRY TOWN LIKE THIS
WHAT IS A "MAN IN BLACK" FATHER?
CHILLS

M.I.B (=MEN IN BLACK) A COMIC SF FILM STARRING WILL SMITH AND TOMMY LEE JONES.

IS MY DISGUISE SO HALF-ASSED?

EVAN!
SHUFF
SHUFF
GOODNESS!
SORRY. I THOUGHT NOBODY WAS OUT HERE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT THINGS HAPPEN
TRENES
WHEN WICKEDNESS IS THIS OBVIOUS, YOU DON'T EVEN GET ANGRY.
WANTED
4 ARMED BANK ROBBERS
$ 20,00
FLAP

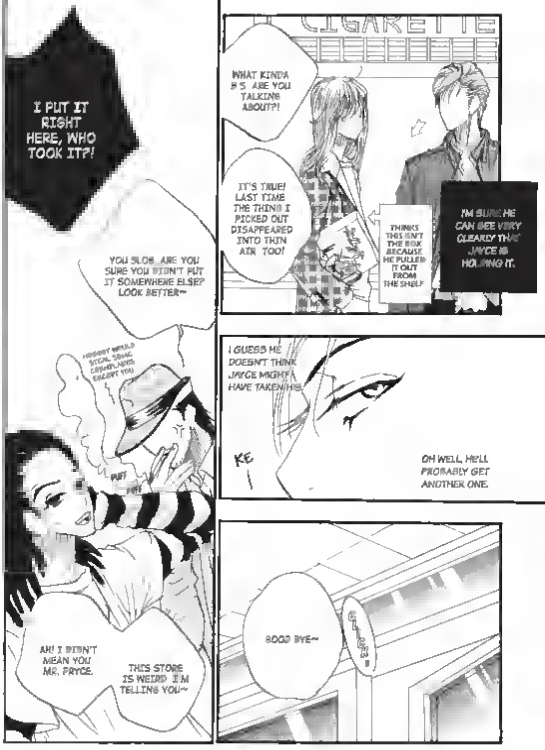
OH
MR. PRYCE! SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!
WHAT? YOU KNOW HIM?
BABBLE
MR. PRYCE THIS IS MY OLDER BROTHER JULES~~
BABBLE
I'M SKIPPY'S BROTHER. ARE YOU REALLY FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES?
SKIPPY'S SERIOUSLY LOUD... HUH?
HAHA I SEE.
DDD

YAK YAK
MY BROTHER AND SISTER WON'T BELIEVE ME MR. PRYCE!
I TOLD YOU!! HE'S REALLY A REPORTER FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES!
AH... SO LOUD.
YAK YAK
BABBLE
BABBLE
THIS KID REALLY TALKS UP A STORM...
SO LOUD THAT I CAN'T EVEN HEAR HIS "REAL" THOUGHTS.

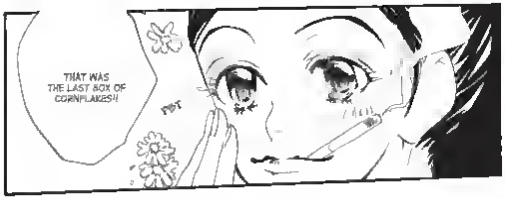
LET ME HEAR IT SOME OTHER TIME. I SHOULD GET GOING NOW
YAK
SO STOP TREATING ME LIKE AN IDIOT!
OH, AND THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU MR. PRYCE
YAK

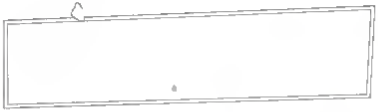
HMPH!
YOU TALK AS IF YOU'RE ALREADY A NOUREVILLIAN!
OKAY! TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY MAIL, IRENE!

HAH!
WHERE'S MY BOX OF CORNFLAKES? IT WAS SITTING RIGHT HERE!
I ALREADY PAID FOR IT
WHICH JERK TOOK IT?!


I PUT IT RIGHT HERE, WHO TOOK IT?!
YOU SLOB. ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T PUT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE? LOOK BETTER~
PUFF
AH! I DIDN'T MEAN YOU MR. FRYDE.
THIS STORE IS WEIRD I'M TELLING YOU~
CIGARETTE
WHAT KINDA B.S. ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
IT'S TRUE! LAST TIME THE THING I PICKED OUT DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR TOO!
THINKS THIS ISN'T THE RISK BECAUSE HE PULLED IT OUT FROM THE SHELF
I'M SURE HE CAN SEE VERY CLEARLY THAT JAYCE IS HOLDING IT.
I GUESS HE DOESN'T THINK JAYCE MIGHT HAVE TAKEN HIS.
OH WELL, HE'LL PROBABLY GET ANOTHER ONE.
GOOD BYE~
CLERK

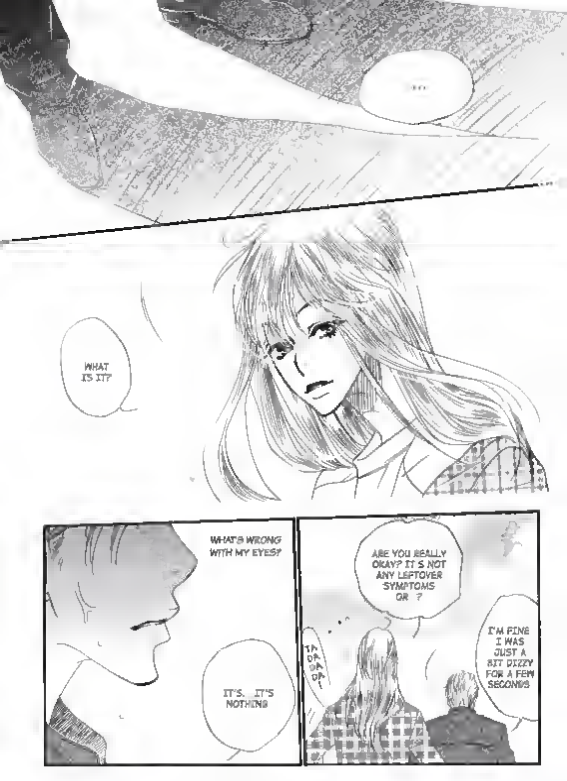
YOU IDIOT!
I LOOKED EVERYWHERE IN THE STORE IT'S NOT HERE~
IS THERE A GHOST OR SOMETHING?


THAT WAS THE LAST BOX OF CORNFLAKES!!
PIPIT



OE

JAYCE!
YEAH?
BACK THERE.
SWI-
WHAT...?
SH


WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EYES?
IT'S... IT'S NOTHING
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY? IT'S NOT ANY LEFTOVER SYMPTOMS OR ?
I'M FINE I WAS JUST A BIT DIZZY FOR A FEW SECONDS
TA DA DA!

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY TO HIM.
THE SUN WAS TOO BRIGHT.
AND PERHAPS THAT'S WHY SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH MY EYESIGHT...
I FELT AS IF JAYCE WAS GOING TO DISAPPEAR BEFORE MY EYES AT ANY MOMENT
THINKING BACK ON IT...
AT THAT TIME, I ALREADY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN LATER.

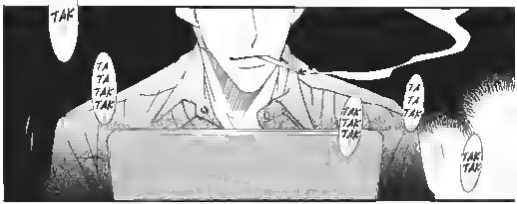
Roureville

VOL.1 Ch.1

THE ELECTRICITY ISN'T BACK YET.

THAT BASTARD CORETTA, ALL TALK AND NO RESULTS. WHAT'S BE CARETUL OF "ELECTRICUTION?"

I'M ONLY WRITING THIS NOVEL TO KILL TIME, BUT I CAN'T JUST WRITE IT LONGHAND FOREVER.



I RECHARGED MY LAPTOP AT THE SUPERMARKET

ROUREVILLE #06
A NOVEL,
RAISING A CAT,
AN OUTING

WHERE AM I? THERE'S A DAMP SMELL, LIKE A BASEMENT
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
WELL?
YOU COMING TO MR. CACTUS?
WHAT DO MEAN CACTUS? MY NAME IS LOUIS
I FEEL LIKE MY HEAD IS GOING TO SPLIT OPEN
THROB
THROB
WHERE AM I?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU RE IN A MOST UNFAVORABLE SITUATION

SHHF
SIR ZEYA, EVERYTHING IS READY

SO SHE SAYS
ALL RIGHT MR. LOUIS I LL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO OPTIONS.
SO THEY LIKE SOME SORT OF POTION? I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY, JUST AS I THOUGHT. THE CHURCH AND THE SHOP WERE A COVER-UP.

THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE. YOU CAN ONLY PICK ONE
THE PHYSICAL METHOD
OR THE NON PHYSICAL METHOD
OF COURSE NEITHER OF THE TWO WILL
SIR ZETA!
THIS IS TOO MUCH IF WE CONTINUE
THIS MAN IS BRAIN WILL SLOWLY COOK
DO YOU STILL WANT TO KEEP TRYING?
MY BRAIN IS GOING TO COOK?
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN. I SHOULD ESCAPE SOMEHOW BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO EVEN LIFT A FINGER. WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO ME?
HMMM~

MR. LOUIS WAVE IS SO UNIQUE THAT IT'S OUTSIDE NORMAL RANGE
YOU MUST MAKE A DECISION QUICKLY
URG!
MY BODY IS GETTING HOT
I CAN FEEL MY TEMPERATURE RISING.
SIR ZETAP WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
UM
THIS IS A DIFFICULT SITUATION SHRION

NOW THAT MR. LOUIS HAS ALREADY ENTERED THE "TERRITORY"
IT'S HOT!
WE AVOID CARVING ON OUR BUSINESS IN A VIOLENT MANNER MR. LOUIS
MY WHOLE BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S BURNING!
BUT UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO THE DISTINCTIVE QUALITY OF YOUR BODY WE ARE LEFT WITH NO OTHER CHOICE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE LIKE THIS!
EAH!
SIR ZETA WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.
THINGS ARE GETTING RIM...
WELL, WELL. PADRE ZETA YOU WENT AHEAD WITHOUT ME
NEVILLE YOU BASTARD !
SIR ZETA! MR. LEADS CONVICTION
HMMM

YOU CAN STOP SERION!
I'M LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS.

AS I LISTENED TO THE VOICES OF THE MEN NAMED NEVILLE AND ZETA (WHO I'M NOT SURE ARE FRIEND OR FOE), I CLOSED MY EYES.

MAYBE DUE TO MY FRAME OF MIND MY BODY FEELS COMFORTABLE NOW

SUDDENLY SHE ENTERED MY THOUGHTS.

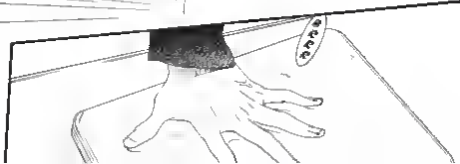
IF I WERE FATED TO DIE, I THOUGHT, I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ANOTHER GOOD LOOK AT HER BACK THEN. I REGRETTED IT

ANNA'S WORRISOME FACE

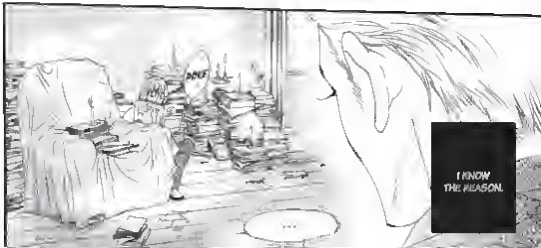
WITH THE IMAGE LEFT IN MY MEMORY AS MY LAST, I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

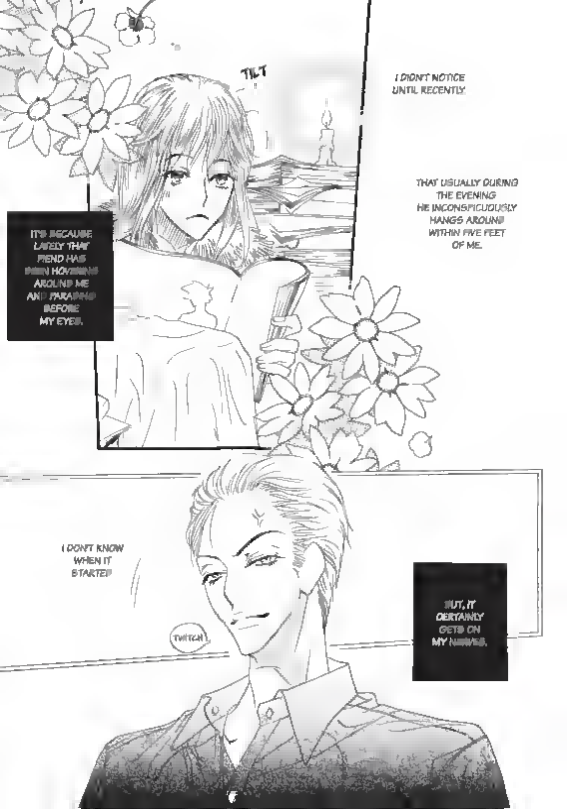
SLAM!

CRASH!



WHY DID HE POP UP IN THE STORY WHEN EVERYTHING WAS GOING SO WELL?
WHY DOES ANNA HAVE THAT IDIOT'S FACE!
HUFF
HUFF HUFF


I KNOW THE REASON.


TILT
I DIDN'T NOTICE UNTIL RECENTLY.
THAT USUALLY DURING THE EVENING HE INCONSPICUOUSLY HANGS AROUND WITHIN FIVE FEET OF ME.
IT'S BECAUSE LATELY THAT FRIEND HAS BEEN HOVERING AROUND ME AND PARADING BEFORE MY EYES.
I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT STARTED
TWITCH
BUT, IT CERTAINLY GETS ON MY NERVES.

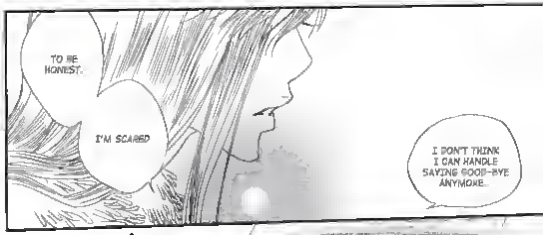
NO MATTER WHEN OR WHERE, I WANT TO BE ALONE.
AH
SLIDE
TAP TAP
I AM BOTHERING YOU, HUH?
I TRIED NOT TO DO MY OWN WAY
I LIKE HEARING THE SOUND OF THE KEYBOARD WHEN YOU'RE WRITING.
HAVING SOMEONE ELSE UNDER THE SAME ROOF SOMEHOW GIVES ME PEACE OF MIND
I FEEL LIKE I CAN LIVE AGAIN THANKS FOR COMING TO STAY WITH ME RYAN
PEACE OF MIND?
HUH? YOU NEVER HAD THAT BEFORE?
KINDA FEELING LONELY WHEN YOU'RE ALONE OR~
NOT AT ALL. ON THE CONTRARY ISN'T BEING ALONE BETTER AND MORE COMFORTABLE?
HE'S A LITTLE PRINCE NOT USED TO BEING SINGLE, HUH?

CLICK
GRIN
I'M GONNA GET NASTY AT HIM AND VENT ABOUT BEING INTERRUPTED!!
STARTLE
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT REALLY TRUE.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE "S" HAS COME AND GONE.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LIVING ALONE FOR TOO LONG
WAS HE TAKEN ABACK. JUST NOW? I THINK I HIT HIM ON THE RIGHT SPOT.
BF. WAS HE YOUR FRIEND?
YEAH I BROUGHT HIM HERE FROM THE THICKET WHERE HE LAY WOUNDED
WE HAD A TOUGH TIME BECAUSE HE HAD A DIFFICULT PERSONALITY

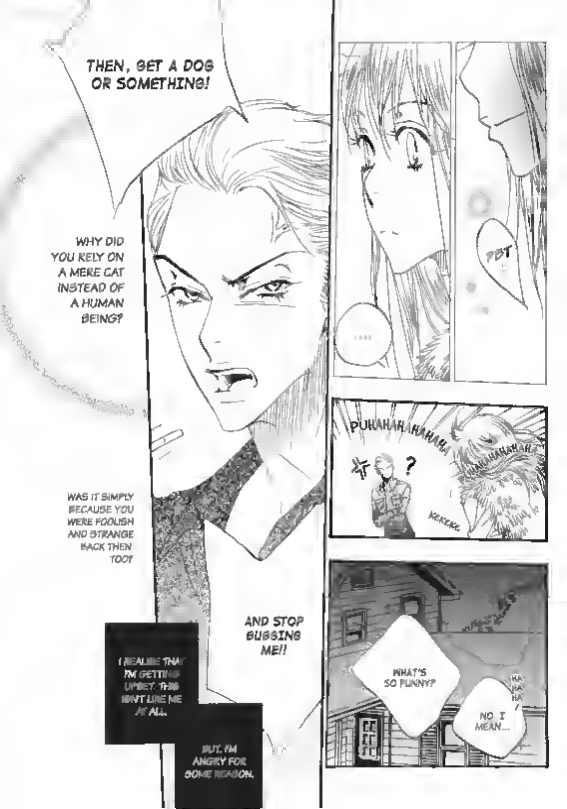
HE DRANK HIS MILK ONLY WHEN IT WAS SLIGHTLY WARMED
YEAH
AH WELL STILL HE BROUGHT ME RATS OR COCKROACHES WHEN HE FELT LIKE IT
AND HE DIDN'T EVEN LET ME REALLY HOLD HIM...
TRENE TOLD ME THAT WAS B'S WAY OF EXPRESSING HIS AFFECTION FOR ME
YEAH HE WAS VERY DIFFICULT
Stop!!
WAIT, HOLD ON A SECOND
EVEN SO HE STILL DIDN'T LIKE BEING TOUCHED. SO I USUALLY WATCHED HIM FROM A FEW PACES AWAY JUST LIKE THIS
I THOUGHT HE AND I HAD A REAL CONNECTION THOUGH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WHEN I WAS WITH B, HE WAS THINKING OF YOU
PUFF
PUFF
THAT... B DID HE HAPPEN TO BE...

MAYBE, IT WAS A 'CAT' OR...
PERHAPS A 'CAT'...
A 'CAT' OR SUCH...
OR SOMETHING LIKE A 'CAT'
...YUM! YOU GOT IT. HE'S A CAT
CRACK
HA!
YOU DON'T LIKE CATS, EVAN?
DO I NOT LIKE CATS?!
GRRRRRR...
SO, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT DURING ALL THIS TIME...
I WAS MERELY A REPLACEMENT FOR A CAT!
GRRRRRR...

YOU KNOW
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE CATS. TO THINK THAT YOU'VE BEEN TREATING ME AS IF I WERE "IT," I'M ALMOST IN TEARS.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DON'T CARE WHO IT IS, AS LONG AS IT SCRATCHES BY YOUR SIDE.
A DOG, OR A CAT, OR SOMEONE ELSE EVEN IF IT'S NOT ME!
...YOU CAN GET ANOTHER ONE, CAN'T YOU?
HMPH!
A CAT?
AND I THOUGHT HE WAS ANGRY! HA... NO CLUE
UM... AFTER IT DIED... I DON'T FEEL I CAN RAISE ANOTHER ONE


TO BE HONEST...
I'M SCARED
I DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE SAYING GOOD-BYE ANYMORE...

THROB
SNIFF
THE WAY IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU... IT MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE.

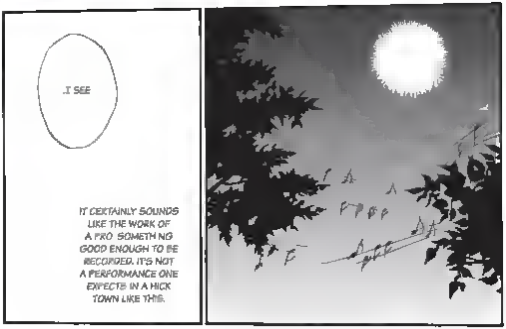

THEN, GET A DOG OR SOMETHING!
WHY DID YOU RELY ON A MERE CAT INSTEAD OF A HUMAN BEING?
WAS IT SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU WERE FOOLISH AND STRANGE BACK THEN TOO?
AND STOP BUGGING ME!!
I REALIZE THAT I'M GETTING UPSET. THIS ISN'T LIKE ME AT ALL...
BUT, I'M ANGRY FOR SOME REASON.
PDT
PUHAHAHAHAHA!
KEKEKE.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
NO, I MEAN...

HA HA
CRACK
EVAN, YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY EASY TO PROVOKE AREN'T YOU?
WHO DO YOU THINK GOT ME THIS ANGRY?
ARE YOU PLAYING SERIOUSLY DUMB?
YOU SCARED ME JUST NOW WHEN THE CHAIR FELL BACK A LITTLE.
HA HA HA
YOU'RE ACTUALLY HOT-TEMPERED
EARLY PRINCESS
YOU SAID THE THING THAT YOU'RE WRITING WASN'T AN ARTICLE RIGHT?
IS IT A NOVEL?
ALL THAT CONSTANT WRITING CAN'T JUST BE ABOUT WRITING YOUR DIARY.
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT I'M WILY AND HARD TO KNOW, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S TOLD ME THAT!
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
NEGATIVE AURA
SARCASTIC
AS IF YOU'D UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I TOLD YOU.
SARCASTIC
UH
ON TOP OF THAT I DON'T LIKE IT THAT I'M HEARING THAT FROM AN IDIOT LIKE YOU.
YEAH I SUPPOSE SO. RIGHT? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LITERATURE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YEAH I SUPPOSE SO, RIGHT?"
I'M ABOUT TO GET ANGRY AGAIN.
WHEN
SUCK
FORGET IT I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STILL TALKING TO THIS IDIOT
AH, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE
WHAT YOU'RE WRITING IS PROBABLY AWESOME.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE AN ULTRA-FUN EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU WRITE
..WHAT EXPRESSION DO I HAVE AGAIN?
THE "I M DOING SOMETHING ULTRA FUN RIGHT NOW" EXPRESSION!
HA HA !
I WAS LIKE, WOW THIS MAN REALLY ENJOYS WRITING
JUDGING FROM THAT YOU SEEM LIKE A VERY PASSIONATE PERSON EVAN

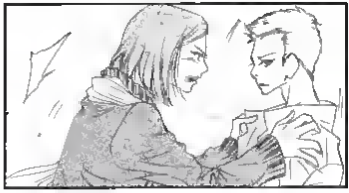
KAFF PASSIONATE
ARE JOURNALISTS NATURALLY LIKE THAT?
PAT
FUN ? THAT LOAD OF STRESS?
UM IS WRITING NEWS ARTICLES JUST AS MUCH FUN?
LET ME TELL YOU IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM TRICKERY AND DECEPTION !
PAUSE
SLIDE
IT'S FUN OF COURSE IT'S FUN LITTLE BOY
YOU GET TO TRAVEL ALL OVER THE WORLD AND EXPERIENCE ALL SORTS OF FASCINATING
YOU MAY SAY THAT NOW
BUT IT'S TOO LATE.

UM YOU KNOW
THIS MIGHT BE TOO IMPERTINENT OF ME TO ASK BUT
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT YOUR JOB
WON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER YOUR CAREER?
THAT WAS VERY IMPERTINENT
ARE YOU TRYING TO LECTURE ME?
BB

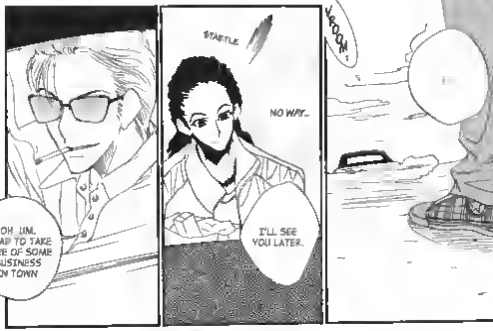

...I SEE
IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE THE WORK OF A PRO. SOMETH NG GOOD ENOUGH TO BE RECORDED. IT'S NOT A PERFORMANCE ONE EXPECTS IN A NICK TOWN LIKE THIS.

REALLY. THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS TOWN.

VROOM
/



STELLA AND CORETTA, THEY ARE TWINS JUST AS I THOUGHT
HELLO MR. PRYCE WHERE ARE YOU COMING FROM?

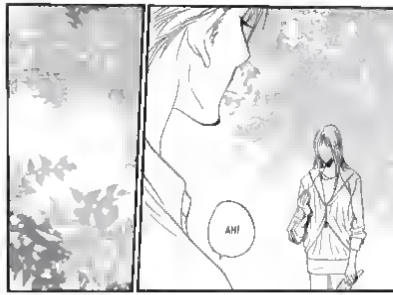

OH, UM. I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS IN TOWN
STARTLE
NO WAY..
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
VROOM

YO
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN OFF TO MR. REPORTER~?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FATHER?
BOUGHT HIMSELF A COAT
HU HA HA HA HA HA HA
THIS TIME FOR SURE...
I THINK YOU'RE TOO OLD TO PLAY MULDER
GRIN

*THE X-FILES, POPULAR U.S. TV SERIES ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF ALIENS. SCULLY'S PARTNER MULDER WAS PLAYED BY DAVID DUCHOVNY

JAYCE
JAYCE?
IS HE IN THE BACKYARD?


AH!

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
HALT

DRIP
DRIP
JAYCE!
DRENCHED IN BLOOD WITH A FACE VOID OF EXPRESSION...
I KNEW IT.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS KID.